(c) Some of the steps taken to boost the export of rice include publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Import of melting steel scrap

3682. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appreared in 'The Hindu', Delhi, dated 3rd April, 2002 under the caption "Unexploded rocket arrives in melting steel scrap";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future while importing steel scrap from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the time of unloading of a consignment of 10 containers containing heavy melting steel scrap at ICD, Tughlakabad in the morning of 2-4-2002 a mis-fired rocket made in 1969, suddenly exploded. As a result of explosion, the driver and the conductor of the truck who were supposed to load the scrap and were present nearby got injured and received immediate treatment in a nearby hospital. The entire consignment, which was shipped from Sharjah and originated from an African country, namely Kenya, was immediately detained and destuffed. Further examination of the goods took place in the following days in the presence of explosive experts and local police, officials of CISF, CONCOR and Customs Officers. The total weight of scrap was 212 MT (Net). On examination, the piece that had exploded was found to be part of mis-fired heat rocket of 1969 make. The remnants of said part were taken over by the explosive experts for further examination. The police authorities completed their investigation and allowed clearance of consignment with an advice that the consignment may be handled

carefully. It is pertinent to mention that M/s Words Window, New Delhi, the importer in this case had sold the goods to M/s Rathi Ispat of Ghaziabad on high sea sale basis. M/s Rathi Ispat of Ghaziabad happens to be a regular importer of heavy melting steel scrap at ICD, Tughlakabad and no foul play is suspected.

(c) As regards precautions taken by the Government in dealing with such scrap, a separate area away from normal examination area has now been earmarked for examination of heavy metal steel scrap by the CONCOR. In such suspected cases, the scrap would be put up for examination of the police/explosive experts and after their clearance the same would be examined by the Customs.

Anti-dumping duty on Polyster Staple Fibre

3683. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has opposed the decision of the Central Government to impose anti-dumping duty on Polyster Staple Fibre (PSF) being imported from South Asian countries;

(b) whether duty would benefit only two big business houses and would adversely hit the textile units in Rajasthan; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in regard to Rajasthan Government's request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Government has so far not imposed anti-dumping duty on import of Polyster Staple Fibre (PSF) as the matter is *sub-judice*. In the meanwhile, Chief Minister of Rajasthan has requested for non-imposition of anti-dumping duty on PSF. A decision in this regard will be taken only after the courts have disposed of the matter.